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HEBER BIOGRAPHIES

more water for agricultural and community use. Later, he became general counsel and a leading proponent of the Provo River Water Users Association—the sponsoring agent for the successful Provo River (Deer Creek) Reclamation Project, now virtually complete. This project made possible the wartime establishment of the steel industry in Utah County and provided water for the amazing postwar growth of Utah and Salt Lake communities.

Senator Watkins was first elected to the Senate in 1946, when he ran as a Republican candidate in a race which few thought he could win. One of his first major efforts in the Congress was successful sponsorship of the Weber Basin Project, a Reclamation project which has made possible the tremendous population and industrial growth in northern Utah, from Davis County to Brigham City. He also stopped the sale of the Bushnell Army Hospital as surplus, at a fraction of its value, and successfully proposed and secured the establishment of the Intermountain Indian School at Brigham City, one of the most effective single efforts to carry educational benefits to the Navajo people.

During his twelve years of service in Washington, he was a major influence on two key committees—Interior and Judiciary—and a member also of the Joint Economic Committee.

On the Judiciary Committee, he helped conduct scores of hearings on the Communist menace, conducted by the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, of which he was a member. He also helped revise our immigration laws and sponsored emergency legislation to admit refugees from countries torn by World War II and from Communist tyranny.

In addition to his activities in water resource developments, he took a prominent part in Indian affairs legislation and in the administration and improvement of mining and public lands laws.

In 1954, even though he was only beginning his second term in the Senate, he was selected as chairman of the Select Committee of the Senate to hear the charges made by fellow Senators against the late Senator Joseph R. McCarthy of Wisconsin. This was a job which he did not seek, but one which he accepted because of his deep-seated sense of duty, and it is to his credit that

he received nation-wide commendation for his fair, just and firm handling of this semi-judicial proceeding which, the press acknowledged, did much to restore public respect for the Senate and its investigatory procedures.

Senator and Mrs. Watkins are the parents of six children. They are Nedra W. Reese, wife of Thomas W. Reese, Orem fruit-grower; Arthur R. Watkins, Professor of Foreign Languages, Brigham Young University; Don (deceased); Venna W. Swalberg, wife of Carl Swalberg, Salt Lake City businessman; Jeanene W. Scott, wife of Richard Scott, government nuclear scientist, working with Admiral Rickover in Washington, D.C.; and Nina W. Palmer, wife of Dr. Martin Palmer, Oakland, California.

The Senator and Mrs. Watkins make their temporary home in Arlington, Va.

Arthur V. Watkins has also been awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws by the University of Utah. The citation reads:

"In recognition of his civic achievements in community life, as a member of the State judiciary, as planner, policy maker, and administrator, in the field of water and resource conservation, for service to Utah as United States Senator, as champion of the dignity of that distinguished body; and for special services to the President of the United States at home and abroad, the University of Utah . . . confers upon Arthur Vivian Watkins the degree of Doctor of Laws . . ."

Currently (1962) Mr. Watkins is chief commissioner of the Indian Claims Commission in Washington, D.C. He was appointed to this post by President Eisenhower July 1, 1959.

Now in his 75th year, Mr. Watkins is vigorously expediting the work of the commission which has been given the task of adjudicating ancient Indian claims which came into existence prior to 1946, against the federal government. There are over 500 of these claims involving more than a billion dollars yet to be disposed of. The former Senator disavows any intention of staying on the commission until the job is finished, even if he could do so. He has yet the task, he tells his friends, of writing his memoirs for his family and some interested friends and associates.